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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/802,855

03/18/2004

Shigeru Okazaki

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07/14/2005

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER
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WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, ANTHONY H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/802,855

Applicant(s)

OKAZAKI, SHIGERU

Examiner

Anthony H. Nguyen

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/27/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) a patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Naramore et al. (US 5,630,578).

With respect to claims 1 and 4, Naramore et al. teaches a paper handling apparatus having a paper guide opening for receiving a paper from outside (Naramore et al., Fig.1, the indicated arrow on the left side of the Figure) and a paper discharge opening 21 and a coupling section 16, 42 which is closely positioned above the paper guiding opening in a vertical direction as shown in Figs.1 and 6 of Naramore et al. Naramore et al. does not teach the coupling section being provided at a position for coupling to other paper handling at a position approximately equal to the paper guiding opening. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the coupling section of Naramore et al. by positioning the coupling section at a position approximately equal to the paper guiding opening for simplicity in design of the paper handling apparatus. With respect to claim 2, the coupling 16, 42 of Naramore et al. is arranged at two positions approximately symmetric to the center of the feeding path a shown in Fig.7. With respect to claim 13, paper handling apparatus which is positioned to the other

Art Unit: 2854

handling apparatus is simply known arrangement used in a known manner and involves no apparent unobviousness.

Claims 3, 5-10, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Naramore et al. (US 5,630,578) in view of Sollitt (US 5,326,093).

With respect to claims 5, 6 and 10, Naramore et al. teaches all that is claimed, except the image system which includes an image forming apparatus, a paper feeding apparatus, and a paper post-processing apparatus. Sollitt teaches the conventional image system having a plurality of paper handling apparatuses 10, an image forming apparatus 12, a paper feeding apparatus in the image forming apparatus (no numeral reference) and the paper post-processing apparatus 11 (Sollitt, col. 14, lines 47-53). In view of the teaching of Sollitt, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the paper handling apparatus of Naramore et al. for use with the image system which includes an image forming apparatus, a paper feeding apparatus and a post-process apparatus as taught by Sollitt to improve the efficiency of printing on a paper. With respect to claim 3, the selection of a desired distance range between the coupling section and the paper guide opening would be obvious through routine experimentation in order to get best possible secured positions between the handling apparatus. With respect to claims 7-9, see the explanation regard to claims 1, 2 and 4 above. With respect to claim 12, the use of two image forming apparatus for printing the first side and the second side of a paper is well known in the art. With respect to claim 14, see the explanation regarding claim 13 above.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Naramore et al. in view of Sollitt as applied to claims 3, 5-10 12 and 14 above, and further in view of Maruyama et al. (US 5,752,154).

Naramore et al. and Sollitt teach all that is claimed, except the displacement detection section for detecting a displacement of a paper. Maruyama et al. teaches an image forming apparatus having the conventional displacement detection section 1003 and 1004 (Maruyama et

al., Figs 36-38) for detecting a displacement of paper as shown in Figs. 36-38 of Maruyama et al. In view of the teaching of Maruyama et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the image forming system of Naramore et al. and Sollitt by providing the displacement detection section as taught by Maruyama et al. to permit more precise control the paper in the feeding direction.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed on April 27, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive in view of a new ground(s) of rejections.

Applicant argues that Naramore et al. does not teach the structure as recited in claim 1. Specifically, applicant argues that Naramore et al. does not teach the "coupling section being provided at a position approximately equal to the paper guide opening" recited in claims 1 and 6. As explained above, while Naramore et al. teaches the coupling section which is closely positioned above the paper guiding opening, the structure of Naramore et al. renders obvious the structure as recited in the claims. Therefore, the combination of Naramore et al. and Sollitt renders obvious the structure as recited in claims 3, 5-10, 12 and 14; and the combination of Naramore et al., Sollitt and Maruyama et al. renders obvious the structure as recited in claim 11.

Conclusion

Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE

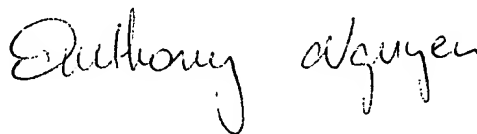
Art Unit: 2854

EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2169.

The examiner can normally be reached daily from 9 AM to 5PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld, can be reached on (571) 272-2168.

The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony Nguyen".

Anthony Nguyen
7/8/05
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800